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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS ENCOURAGES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AS COMMUNITY HEARINGS APPROACH FOR \$1.7 BILLION CRENSHAW/SOUTH BAY TRANSIT CORRIDOR

LOS ANGELES – As the first community hearing approaches, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today encouraged residents to weigh in on plans for the \$1.7 billion Crenshaw/South Bay Transit Corridor project.

The first of four hearings hosted by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will take place next Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 6-8 p.m. at the Wilshire United Methodist Church Hall of Fellowship, located at 4350 Wilshire Blvd in Los Angeles.

The hearings will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the design options being considered in the Draft Environment Impact Statement/Draft Environment Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) for the project that will serve the communities along the heavily traveled Crenshaw Corridor and connect with the South Bay.

“For years, these communities have historically been underserved by transit investments, and the project will not only improve local mobility but also will generate jobs directly and indirectly for the entire region,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said, calling the project “Long Overdue.”

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Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has made it clear that involving the community in the decision making process will allow their voices to be heard and will build a sense of trust and transparency of the project.

In November, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board will vote on the implementation of one of two options for the Crenshaw Transit Corridor project: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), which will operate in special traffic lanes, or Light Rail Transit (LRT). Supervisor Ridley-Thomas supports the Light Rail option, which he has said is a greener, more efficient mode of transportation.

The project is a major north-south investment in the Crenshaw District area, potentially providing relief for the I-405 and I-110 Freeways. It will also be a major link to LAX, connecting the Metro Green Line to the south, the Expo Line to the north, and potentially the Wilshire Corridor (BRT only). The project would provide connections to the entire Metro Rail system and its more than 2,100 peak-hour buses.

The Crenshaw Corridor Project will include the cities of Los Angeles, Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County. It will cover approximately a 33-square mile area from Wilshire Boulevard to the north, El Segundo Boulevard to the south, Arlington Avenue on the east, and Sepulveda Boulevard and La Tijera Boulevard/La Brea Avenue on the west.

- The complete listing of MTA public hearings is as follows:

Wilshire United Methodist Church “Hall of Fellowship” Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, 6-8 p.m. 4350 Wilshire Blvd., LA, CA 90010	West Angeles Church “Crystal Room” Thursday, October 1, 2009, 6-8 p.m. 3045 Crenshaw Blvd., LA, CA 90016
Inglewood High School “Cafeteria” Saturday, October 3, 2009, 10 a.m.-Noon 231 S. Grevillea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301	Transfiguration Church Hall Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 6-8 p.m. 2515 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., LA, CA 90008